Export Promotion Bodies

*235. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring all the export promotion bodies under one umbrella for the promotion of foreign trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The feasibility of bringing all export promotion bodies under one umbrella organisation for promotion of foreign trade is under consideration. Specific proposals are yet to be worked out.

[*Translation*]

Development of National Waterways

*236. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Waterways were proposed to be developed in three phases for shipping and navigation ; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). There are at present two National Waterways. On National Waterway No.1 (Allahabad–Haldia Stretch of the Ganga–Bhagirathi–Hooghly rivers), navigation channel of 1.5 metres depth and over 45 metres width is provided in the Haldia–Ballia Stretch. Cargo terminal facilities have been provided at Haldia, Calcutta, Berhampur, Pakur, Farakka, Bhagalpur, Monghyr and Patna.

On the National Waterway No.2 (Sadiya–Bhubri Stretch of Brahmaputra river), navigation channel of 2.25 metres depth and over 45 metres width is available from Dhubri to Gamari.

Cargo terminal facilities have been sanctioned for Pandu, Jogighopa, Neamati, Tejpur and Dibrugarh under North Eastern Council schemes.

Smuggling on Indo–Nepal Border

*237. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of smuggling cases detected on Indo–Nepal border during the last one year, till date;

(b) the contraband items and gold seized during the above period;

(c) The number of smugglers apprehended; and

(d) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). The number of cases of smuggling detected, the value of gold and other contraband seized and the number of persons arrested in the Indo–Nepal sector of the land border during the calender years 1990 and 1991 (upto 26.11.1991) are giver below:-